The Minister of Human Resource Development held consultations with Chairman, UGC and Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities to consider measures to mitigate the financial difficulties being faced by them. On the basis of these consultations, the UGC have withdrawn the Commission's earlier orders of freezing the maintenance grants.

National Action Plan for Children

*248. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Action Plan for Children is under Government's consideration as part of its commitment to the United Naitons World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children (September 1990);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for its implementation including the finances required therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) A National Plan of Action for Children has been approved by the Government for implementation upto 2000 A.D. as part of its commitment to the United Nations World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children. The Government has also been committed to the cause of children and provisions for child development have been made under the various Five Year Plans.

(b) The Plan of Action would cover Child Care and Development in the fields of health, nutrition, education, water supply, sanitaion, welfare, environment and disadvantaged children including girls among other groups.

(c) The National Plan of Action would be implemented by concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India from their Plan funds.

Workshop on the problem of neglected children

*249. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a two-day national workshop on the problem of neglected children was held on June 19-20, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the main observations and suggestions made at the workshop; and

(c) what is the number of neglected children in India, indicating the State-wise and Union Territory-wise break-up thereof and what are the broad features of the programme, if any, contemplated under the Eighth Five Year Plan for rehabilitation of these neglected children?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The observations and suggestions made at the workshop include (a) priortisation of categories amongst neglected children and formulation of different strategies, policies and programmes for different target groups; (b) amending certain provision of JJ Act, 1986 so as to strengthen provisions relating to child abuse and neglect; (c) effective enforcement of the Orphanages and other Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control) Act, 1960; (d) eliciting active cooperation of voluntary organisations in schemes for street children & (e) to devise ways and means for mobilising community resources for the welfare of neglected children.

As no statistical survey has taken so far, the number of neglected children in the country is not available.

During the Eighth Five Year Plan the Government propose to start two new central schemes for the welfare of Neglected Children.

The Scheme for Street Children envisages to to provide welfare services such as nutrition, health, non-formal education and vocational training to street children which form a part of a broader category of neglected children. The scheme is proposed to be implemented through voluntary organisations who will explore and utilise the infrastructure available through other existing schemes. The allocation for the Eighth Plan period under the Scheme is Rs. 6 crores.

The other scheme for Neglected Children i.e., Scheme for Beggary Prevention aims at providing technical education and vocational training to children in Beggar Homes. The Scheme is proposed to be implemented through the State Governments/Union Territories. The Eighth Five Year Plan allocation for the Scheme is Rs. 2.00 crores.

The Government also proposes to start a City-Level Programme for Street Children with combined efforts of State Governments, Municipal Corporations and Voluntary Organisations under UNICEF assistance in six metropolitan cities viz., Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Hyderabad where the concentration of such category of children is large.

All the above mentioned Schemes aim at rehabilitation of the neglected children in society.

Housing Co-operative Societies of M.Ps.

*250. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Housing Cooperative Societies of Members of Parliament registered in Delhi; and

(b) when did these Cooperative Housing Societies apply for allotment of land for housing and what is the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) There is no such society registered exclusively for Member of Parliament.

(b) Question does not arise.

History of Indian Freedom Movement

*251. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 4184 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th March, 1992 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, the Indian Council of Hisorical Research (ICHR) on 10th August 1973 launched a project for the completion of a series of 10 volumes of source material relating to the Indian Freedom movement for the period 1937—1947;

(b) whether it is a fact that ICHR has so far published only one volume from 1973 to 1992;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the tardy progress made so far by the ICHR;

(d) what is the amount of expenditure incurred by ICHR on the said volume from 1973 to 1992;

(e) whether it is a fact that one volume published by ICHR so far has also been criticised severely by the historians;

(f) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(g) what steps Government propose to take in the matter; and

(h) what are the details of the guidelines issued by Government to ICHR in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. but the date of launching was 20th August, 1973 and not 10th August, 1973.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No full time Editor could be appointed till 1982, which severely limited the selection and editing of material during the first nine years.

(d) The publication cost of Volume I came to Rs. 3.00 lakhs (approx.).